a port sharing data interface processing (DIP) program in operation with said IVR, said program adapted to enable said script to be performed on multiple ports of said IVR.

5. (Twice Amended) A system comprising:

a plurality of telephone call receiving switches, each configured prior to answering a call to detect and pass out of band call destination information;

a plurality of multiple port IVR's adapted to play a plurality of scripts, in electronic communication with said switches;

at least one server computer in electronic communication with said plurality of telephone receiving switches for receiving the out-of-band call destination information and in electronic communication with said IVR's, said at least one server configured to associate one of said plurality of scripts to the out-of-band call destination information;

a network structure facilitating electronic communication between said IVR's and said switches and said at least one server; and

a port sharing data interface processing program in operation with IVR's, whereby each port of each IVR is monitored to determine its availability to receive a call, to request call destination information from said server via said network structure and play at least one of said scripts to a caller.

6. (Amended) A method of handling a plurality of telephone call received at a private branch switch (PBX) to efficiently use a plurality of ports of an interactive voice response (IVR) to provide a selected one of a plurality of application, the method comprising:

in response to receiving a call at the PBX, passing call destination information out of band to the IVR;

identifying an application associated with the call destination information;

assigning the call to a selected one of the plurality of ports of the IVR; and

in response to receiving the call at the IVR thereto, executing the identified application at the selected port.

7. (Amended) A method of handling a plurality of telephone call received at a private branch switch (PBX) to efficiently use a plurality of ports of an interactive voice response (IVR) to provide a selected one of a plurality of application, the method comprising:

in response to receiving a call at the PBX, passing call destination information to the IVR by detecting Dialed Number Identification Service (DNIS) and Automatic Number Identification (ANI) associated with the call, passing the DNIS and ANI out of band to the IVR, and answering the call at the PBX;

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identifying an application associated with the call destination information;

assigning the call to a selected one of the plurality of ports of the IVR; and

in response to thereto, executing the application at the selected port.

8. (Amended) A method of handling a plurality of telephone call received at a private branch switch (PBX) to efficiently use a plurality of ports of an interactive voice response (IVR) to provide a selected one of a plurality of application, the method comprising:

in response to receiving a call at the PBX, passing call destination information to the IVR;

identifying an application associated with the call destination information by associating each of a plurality of call destinations to a one of a plurality of applications, storing the associations, and in response to receiving the call destination information, looking up the call destination in the stored association;

assigning the call to a selected one of the plurality of ports of the IVR; and

in response to thereto, executing the application at the selected port.

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10. (Amended) A system for call processing, comprising:

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a telephone call receiving switch configured to detect call destination information of an incoming call, to assign the incoming call to a selected one of a plurality of channels, to pass the call destination information out of band to the selected channel, and to answer the incoming call;

a table containing a plurality of call destination records associated with a plurality of applications;

a server apparatus in data communication with said switch and said telephone call receiving switch and responsive to the out of band call destination information to identify an associated application with reference to the table and to a call identifier to the incoming call;

an IVR that includes a port in telephony communication with the selected channel and in data communication with the server, the IVR including a port sharing data interface processing program responsive to the detected call destination information and incoming call reaching said port to access said associated program to perform on the selected port.

Please add claim 12 as follows:

12. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said telephone call receiving switch is further configured to detect and pass out of band call destination information by detecting comprising Dialed Number Identification Service (DNIS) and Automatic Number Identification (ANI) associated with the call.

Remarks

Claims 1-12 remain under active prosecution in the present application. Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 have been amended. Claim 12 has been added. A copy of the amended claims showing the revisions made is attached hereto. Applicants respectfully assert that all amendments are supported by the original disclosure and do introduce new matter. Moreover, Applicants further respectfully assert that the amendments merely clarify and do not narrow the scope of the claims.

In the subject office action, Claims 1-6 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being unpatentable as being anticipated by Bjornberg, et. al. (US Patent 6,366,658. Further to the subject office action, Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bjornberg in view of Scherer (US 5,867,562. The rejections are traversed for the reasons set forth below.

Turning to the rejection of claims 7-9, Applicants have determined the inventorship, invention dates, and ownership of each of these claims were commonly owned with that of U.S. Pat. No. 5,867,562. Moreover, Applicants have considered the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c),